



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY No. 18. PRELIMINARY RESULTS.

AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY PAYMENTS

VALUES OF STOCKS OF GOODS

The first part of Quarterly Business Survey No. 18 related to the number of employees and their earnings for the last pay period in September, 1951. Employees and their respective earnings were classified into male and female, adult and junior, and manual and other workers. The results of this Survey, as presented below, show average weekly earnings per employee in Australian private non-rural industry distinguishing between various employee and industry groups. A similar Survey was conducted in September, 1947, and this summary shows the changes which have occurred over the intervening four years.

1. AVERAGE EARNINGS BY CLASS OF EMPLOYEE

The average weekly earnings in the last pay-period in September, 1951 were £13.16.10 for males and £7.16.1 for females. As compared with the figures for September, 1947, average weekly earnings of males increased by approximately 75 per cent and of females by 95 per cent. The ratio of female to male earnings increased from 51 per cent in 1947, to 56 per cent in September, 1951. This change in ratio between male and female earnings was partly due to the basic wage adjustments made at the end of 1950.

Table 1 shows the average weekly earnings for each class of employee for all industries combined and for those engaged mainly in manufacturing. The figures exclude government employees and persons in rural industry. Earnings include all payments made to employees including overtime and differ from award rates by short time and overtime and payments above award. Non-manual employees cover a wide range of employees from clerical workers to managing directors.

TABLE 1. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, SEPTEMBER, 1951

	Manufacturing Industry			All Industry		
	Male			Female		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
<u>Adult Employees</u>						
Manual	13.	18.	8.	8.	8.	3.
Non-Manual	17.	13.	6.	9.	3.	2.
All Adult	14.	11.	2.	8.	11.	8.
<u>Junior Employees</u>						
Manual	6.	10.	8.	5.	13.	10.
Non-Manual	7.	7.	3.	5.	18.	0.
All Junior	6.	13.	6.	5.	15.	5.
<u>All Employees</u>	13.	19.	1.	7.	19.	1.

The percentage of female to male earnings was 57.0 for manufacturing industry and 56.4 for all industry. Among adult employees the percentage of female to male earnings was 52.9 for non-manual workers and 59.3 for manual workers with an overall percentage for adults of 58.0. The percentage for junior employees was approximately 90 for both manual and non-manual workers. The figure for all females (56.4 per cent) was lower than those for adults (58 per cent) or juniors (90 per cent) owing to the much higher proportion of juniors among female employees and the consequent greater influence of the lower junior earnings in the overall average.

Junior male earnings were 43.6 per cent of the adult male figure and junior female employees received 67.6 per cent of adult female earnings. For both male and female employees the percentage of earnings of junior manual workers to those of adult manual workers is higher than the percentage for clerical workers.

The percentage increases in earnings between September, 1947 and September, 1951 for each employee group are summarized in the following table. The figures in this table are approximate only because of a slightly different treatment in the two surveys of certain payments (e.g. bonuses and commissions) which makes complete comparability impossible, but the range of error is not more than one or two per cent and generally is quite negligible.

TABLE 2. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS : PER CENT INCREASE
SEPTEMBER, 1947 TO SEPTEMBER, 1951

	Male	Female
	%	%
<u>Adult</u>		
Manual ..	77	93
Non-Manual ..	60	80
All Adult ..	71	87
<u>Junior</u>		
Manual ..	92	111
Non-Manual ..	88	100
All Junior ..	90	104
<u>All Employees</u> ..	75	95

The largest increase in average earnings from September, 1947 to September, 1951 was among junior females where earnings of both manual and clerical workers increased by 100 per cent or more. In all cases earnings of females increased substantially more than those of the corresponding male group. Earnings by juniors increased faster than the earnings of adults, generally by some 15 per cent more, and earnings of the manual workers increased some 10 to 20 per cent more than those of the non-manual employees. The smallest increase of all was that made by the adult male non-manual workers.

2. AVERAGE EARNINGS FOR SELECTED INDUSTRIES

A comparison of average earnings by various industries is of limited value owing to the wide range of occupations covered by the figures and the consequent difficulty of obtaining representative averages. In addition, the figures for clerical workers include a varying proportion of highly paid executives, the salaries of whom significantly affect the averages. Special characteristics can be pointed to in many particular industries, such as the numbers of casual and part-time employees, which affect the average earnings figures in these industries. The manual group of employees, though embracing a wide range of occupations, are probably less influenced by other special factors and Table 3, therefore, shows the average earnings of manual workers only by industries.

TABLE 3. AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF MANUAL WORKERS - SEPTEMBER, 1951

Industry	Adult Males			Junior Males			Adult Females			Junior Females		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Mining	19.	6.	9	10.	18.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone, earthenware, glass etc. manufacturing ..	14.	9.	0	6.	5.	8	7.	6.	11	-	-	-
Engineering, metal working	13.	18.	1	6.	18.	10	8.	10.	2	5.	18.	10
Vehicle building, assembly etc.	13.	19.	9	5.	19.	0	9.	8.	1	-	-	-
Textiles manufacturing ..	13.	12.	4	6.	19.	1	8.	7.	5	6.	10.	11
Clothing manufacturing ..	12.	18.	4	7.	4.	9	8.	10.	11	5.	8.	8
Food, drink, tobacco manufacturing	12.	17.	3	6.	4.	2	7.	19.	10	6.	1.	10
Sawmilling, woodworking, etc.	13.	9.	10	6.	1.	0	8.	7.	0	-	-	-
Paper making, printing, etc.	16.	4.	9	5.	18.	4	9.	4.	4	5.	12.	1
Chemical manufacturing ..	15.	0.	10	8.	3.	4	7.	18.	9	6.	2.	2
Tanning leather goods and rubber goods manufacturing ..	12.	5.	2	8.	5.	9	7.	17.	4	-	-	-
Gas and Electricity supply	14.	19.	5	5.	10.	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building	13.	13.	9	5.	8.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Road Transport ..	13.	10.	2	5.	17.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

Apart from the "mining" group, where the figures are affected by the lead bonus, the highest earnings for adult males are in the paper-making and printing, etc., and chemical manufacturing industries, in each of which average earnings were more than £15 per week. Average weekly earnings in the gas and electricity supply industry were almost £15 per week. These four industries were also among the highest in September, 1947 although at that time earnings in the engineering industry were slightly higher than those in chemical manufacturing. Relatively, there is greater variation between industries in the earnings of junior male employees. Highest average earnings are again in the mining industry, followed by leather and rubber goods and chemical manufacturing. Average earnings for junior male employees are lowest among the non-manufacturing industries of building and road transport and the manufacturing industries of gas and electricity, paper-making and printing, and vehicle building and assembling.

Adult female manual workers earnings are more than £9 per week in the vehicle building and assembling, and paper making and printing, etc., industries, and less than £8 per week in the stone, earthenware, glass, etc., food, drink and tobacco, chemical and leather and rubber goods manufacturing industries. Junior female earnings are highest in the textile, chemicals, and food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries, but show much less variation between industries than the earnings of junior males.

VALUES OF STOCKS OF GOODS

The second part of Quarterly Business Survey No. 18 related to values of stocks of goods actually held at balancing dates in 1950 and 1951 and the estimated value of stocks at September, 1951. The figures asked for were the values of stocks as used for balance sheet purposes and so included stocks of all kinds - fuel and raw materials, goods in process and finished goods. The results of this Survey are given below in comparison with figures from earlier surveys. The figures refer to private businesses which are subject to payroll tax with the exception of those in rural industry. The value of stocks held by governments and government business undertakings is not included. The classification by industry is based on the main activity of the undertakings making the returns. Owing to the "composite" nature of some firms this method of classification is not absolutely precise but sufficiently so to indicate trends in the more important industrial groups. In interpreting the figures attention should be directed to the trends from year to year rather than to the absolute levels, and allowance made for the slight increase year by year in the proportion of the total field covered. This is due to increase in the proportion of employers and businesses subject to Pay Roll Tax.

1. TOTAL VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS

Table 1 shows the estimated total value of stocks of goods held by manufacturing and trading businesses.

TABLE 1. TOTAL BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY MANUFACTURERS
AND TRADERS 1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1951

(By private businesses subject to payroll tax)

£m.

		As at last balancing dates prior to September						As at end of September 1951
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
Manufacturers	..	217	260	322	384	442	596	633
Traders	..	114	163	212	242	285	358	403
Total:		331	423	534	626	727	954	1036

Between balancing dates in 1946 and 1951 the total value of stocks held by manufacturers and traders increased by £623m. - representing a rise of 188 per cent in five years. The figures for 1951 refer to values as at the last balancing date prior to the end of September, 1951, and similarly for earlier years. In the twelve months preceding the 1951 balancing dates the value of total stocks increased by £227m., or 31 per cent; manufacturers' stocks increased by 35 per cent, and traders' stocks by 26 per cent. From 1951 balance dates to September, 1951, the value of stocks held by traders rose by a further 13 per cent and the value of stocks held by manufacturers by a further 6 per cent, to give a total value of stocks held by manufacturers and traders of £1,036m. at September, 1951.

These figures refer to the total book values of stocks and the changes are due partly to increases in the unit values of goods in stock and partly to changes in quantity.

2. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY MANUFACTURERS

Table 2 shows the values of stocks of goods held in the principal manufacturing industries since 1946.

TABLE 2. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY MANUFACTURERS
1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1951

(By private businesses subject to payroll tax)

£m.

Industry	As at last balancing dates prior to September						As at end of September, 1951
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
Engineering, Vehicles	81	95	115	140	175	239	255
Textiles ..	16	18	21	30	35	56	53
Clothing ..	18	21	29	36	39	51	54
Food, Drink, Tobacco	44	53	60	66	73	94	104
Paper, Printing	11	15	23	25	22	28	30
Other Manufacturing	47	58	74	87	98	128	137
All Manufacturing:	217	260	322	384	442	596	633

The total value of stocks held by manufacturers increased by £154m. between balancing dates in 1950 and 1951. Of this increase, engineering and vehicles accounted for £64m., "Other manufacturing" £30m., food, drink and tobacco, and textiles £21m. each. The largest relative increase, however, was 60 per cent in the textile industry. Other large percentage increases, of more than 30 per cent, were shown by the engineering and "other manufacturing" industries.

The value of stocks rose by a further £37m. between 1951 balancing dates and September, 1951. Slight rises are shown in the value of stocks held by all industries except the textile industry where stocks fell by £3m. This fall was the net result of a slight rise in most sections of the industry being more than offset by a fall in the woollen section.

3. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY TRADERS

The values of stocks of goods held by wholesale and retail traders from 1946 to September, 1951 are shown in the following table.

TABLE 3. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY TRADERS
1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1951

(By private businesses subject to payroll tax)

£m.

		As at last balancing dates prior to September					As at end of September, 1951
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Wholesale Trading	..	59	88	121	140	170	222
Retail Trading	..	55	75	91	102	115	181
All Trading:		114	163	212	242	285	403

Between 1950 and 1951 the value of stocks held by wholesale traders increased by £35m., and the value of stocks held by retail traders by £38m. The percentage increase in value of retail traders' stocks was 33 per cent compared with 21 per cent increase in value of wholesale traders' stocks. The relatively more rapid accumulation of stocks by retail traders was maintained to September, 1951. Over this period from 1951 balancing dates to September, 1951 value of stocks held by retail traders rose by a further 18 per cent and value of stocks held by wholesale traders by a further 8 per cent.

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